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POETRY.

From the National Magazine.
THE RETURN HOME.

FROM THE GERMAN.

Who comes from far lands yonder?
A faint and faithful son,
Who years ago would wander,
A curious, careless one.

He found the white world yearning
For scenes and objects new;
He found his home returning—
He finds the old more true.

The dear old home he found it—
He kneels with joy once more;
But all is still around it—
All dark and still the door.

He calls loved names—replying,
The empty court-yard rang;
The door wide open lying,
With sword-like clash and clang.

A spirit voice awakens
The strange and startled air;
No eye of fondness looks on,
He sees no mother there.

He roams, distressed and lonely,
Through chamber, court, and hall;
Alas! the old life only
Hangs on the mossy wall.

The dear old relic, weeping,
Into his arms he takes;
Its shroud's familiar sweeping,
His childhood's days he wakes.

And while the chords are ringing,
How swells his throbbing breast!
He hears his mother singing
Her darling boy to rest.

He sees her form before him,
So gentle, sweet, and mild,
At evening hushing o'er him,
To say, "Good-night, dear child!"

Then drops the entranced gaze
The light upon the floor;
He hastens to embrace her—
But she is there no more!

NEWPORT, R. I. C. T. B.

AGRICULTURE.

RURAL AXIOMS.—It is as cheap to raise one ton of grass or clover as a ton of burdocks or pig-weeds.

It costs no more to raise a hundred bushels of either apples, or ten barrels of Virgalieu or Barlett's, than the same quantity of choke pears.

An axe costing two dollars, with which a labourer may cut fifty cords a month, is a cheaper tool than an axe costing but one dollar, with which he can cut only forty cords.

A "cheap plough" at five dollars, costing in one season three dollars in repairs, and three more in lost time to teams and men, and by retarding crops, is a dearer plough than one at ten dollars, requiring no repair.

A cow bought for ten dollars, whose milk but just pays her keeping, affords less profit than one at thirty dollars, giving twice the quantity of milk afforded by the former.

A common dasher-churn at two dollars, used one hundred times a year, is not so economical a purchase as a Kendall churn at four dollars, requiring but half the labour to work it.

A ten-acre field costing fifty dollars per acre, and ditched, manured, and improved at fifty dollars more, so as to give twice the crops, is much more valuable than twenty acres unimproved, costing the same money.

PREPARATION OF SEED CORN.—I have made frequent experiment in preparing seed corn, without success, except one made last spring. I took soft soap, put some in a kettle, warmed it over the fire, put in the seed corn, and gave it a good stirring, adding as much plaster as would adhere to the corn. The corn came up good and quick, and looked vigorous and healthy. The alkali in the soap is a strong fertilizer. The wire-worms did not disturb that planted with the seed soaked; that part not soaked was injured more or less by the worms. Last season should attribute the manifest difference between the soaked and unsoaked seed to the plaster, I took some thick molasses, put a few quarts of seed in a kettle, as above stated; there was as much plaster attached to this seed as to that soaked. The greater part of the field was planted with seed in its natural state. The soaked seed came up the quickest and best.—*Conn. Gent.*

MILLET.—This grain, where the seed is the principal object, may be got in any time before July. We have known affluent crops from seed sown as late as the fourth of this month; but as a general rule, the sowing ought not, perhaps, to be deferred beyond the last week in June. When hay is the main object of the cultivator, it must be sowed earlier. May is probably the best time. Convinced as we are of the great value of millet as a field crop, we are strongly desirous of seeing it more generally introduced; and especially in those sections where there is a large proportion of light, warm soil, and on which soil, it can, from various circumstances, be cultivated with far more success and profit, generally speaking, than any other grain.—*N. E. Farmer.*

WISCONSANTOUS.

STORIES ABOUT HORSES.

We will now relate some instance of the memory of the horse. One belonging to a gentleman of Taunton strayed from a field at Corfe, about three miles from thence. After a long and troublesome search, he was at last discovered on a farm at Branscombe, in Devon, a distance of twenty-three miles, being the place where he was foaled, although it is certain that the animal had not been there for ten years, having during the whole of that time been in possession of the gentleman who owned him.

The other is not less remarkable: A gentleman rode a young horse, which he had bred, thirty miles from home, and to a part of the country where he had never been before. The road was a cross one, and extremely difficult to find; however, by dint of perseverance and inquiry, he reached his destination. Two years afterwards he had occasion to pursue the same route. He was benighted three or four miles from the end of his journey. The night was so dark that he could scarcely see the horse's head: he had a black and dreary moor and common to pass, and had lost all traces of the proper direction he had to take. The rain began to fall heavily. He now contemplated the uncertainty of his situation. "Here am I," said he to himself, "far away from any house, and in the midst of a dreary waste, where I know not which way to direct the course of my steed. I have heard much of the memory of the horse, and that is now my only hope." He threw the reins on the animal's neck, and encouraging him to proceed, found himself safe at the gate of his friend in half an hour. It must be remarked that the horse could not possibly be that road with the exception of the time before-mentioned at two years' distant, as no person over rode him but his master.

The following anecdote is given on the authority of Doctor Macdonell, of Belfast well known for his great talents as a naturalist:

"A gentleman with whom the Doctor was acquainted had a horse, which had been observed to disengage his head from the halter, then, to open the door of the stable, and go out in the middle of the night only, and regale himself upon corn in a field at a considerable distance. The horse returned to his stall before the break of day, and had continued this practice for some time without being detected. He adroitly opened the door, by drawing a string fastened to the latch with his teeth; and it is said, that on returning to the stable, he shut the door.

Between the years 1750 and 1760, a Scottish lawyer of eminence made a journey to London. At that period such journeys were usually performed on horseback, and the traveller might either ride post, or if willing to travel economically, he bought a horse and sold him at the end of his journey. The gentleman above alluded to, who was a good judge of horses, as well as an excellent horseman, had chosen the latter mode of travelling, and had sold the steed on which he rode from Scotland, as soon as he arrived in London. With a view to his return he went to Smithfield to purchase a horse. About dusk, a handsome one was offered to him at so cheap a rate, that he was led to suspect the animal was unsound, but as he could discover no blemish, he became the purchaser. Next morning he set out on his journey; his horse had excellent paces, and the few first miles, while the road was well frequented, his traveller spent in congratulating himself on his good fortune, in having made so good a bargain. On Finchley Common, and at a place where the road ran down a slight ascent, and up the other the traveller met a clergyman driving a one horse chaise. There was nobody within sight, and the horse by his maneuvre plainly intimated what had been the profession of his former owner. Instead of passing the chaise he ran close up to it, and stooped it, having no doubt but his rider would embrace so fair an opportunity of exercising his vocation. The clergyman never doubting the identity of the equestrian, produced his purse unasked, and assured the astonished lawyer that it was quite unnecessary to draw his pistol, as he did not intend to offer any resistance. The traveller rallied his steed, and with many apologies to the gentleman he had so innocently and unwillingly affronted pursued his journey.

The horse next made the same suspicious approach to a coach, from the windows of which a blunderbuss was levelled, with denunciations of death and destruction to the rider, though slackless, as he used to express it, of all offence in word or deed. In short, after his life had been once or twice endangered by the suspicious to which the conduct of his horse gave rise, and his liberty as often threatened by peace officers, who were disposed to apprehend him as the notorious highwayman who had formerly ridden him, he

found himself obliged to part with the insubstantial animal for a mere trifle, and to purchase at a dear rate one less showy, and of inferior action, but of better moral habits.

The Sheltie, a diminutive horse, not larger than a Newfoundland dog, is to be found in Shetland and all the islands on the north and west of Scotland, also in the mountainous districts of the mainland along the coast. They are beautifully formed, and possess prodigious strength in proportion to their size. The heads are small, with a flowing mane and long tail, reaching to the ground. They are highspirited and courageous little animals but extremely tractable in their nature. They run wild about the mountains, and there are various methods of catching them, according to the local situation of the district which they inhabit.

The shelties are generally so small that a middle-sized man must ride with his knees parallel to the animal's shoulders, to prevent his toes from touching the ground. It is surprising to see with what speed they will carry a heavy man over broken and zig-zag roads, in their native mountains. When grazing, they will clamber up steep ascents, and to the extreme edge of precipices, which overhang the most frightful abysses, and there they will gaze around with as much complacency as if on a plain.

These small animals are not, however, to be considered a degenerate breed, for they are possessed of much greater physical strength, in proportion to their size, than larger horses. They are called in the Highlands, garrons, and, till very lately, were broken in a very harsh, and even cruel manner. A rope was tied around their hind leg, and they were beat most unmercifully with a great stick, while the horse kicked furiously, and struggled violently for his liberty; and sometimes the garron would lie down and sometimes the Highlander, and often both together, but still the man generally kept his hold.

Many years ago, when turnpikes were first established in Scotland, a countryman was employed by the Laird of Coll to go to Glasgow and Edinburgh on certain business, and furnished him with a small sheltie to ride on. Being stopped at a gate near Dumbarton, the messenger good humouredly asked the keeper if he would be required to pay toll, should he pass through carrying a burthen; and upon the answering, "Certainly not," he took up the horse in his arms and carried him through the toll-bar, to the great amusement of the keeper.

A gentleman some time ago, was presented with one of those handsome little animals, which was no less docile than elegant, and measured only seven hands, or twenty-eight inches in height. He was anxious to convey his present home as speedily as possible; but, being at a considerable distance, was at a loss how to do so most easily. The friend, said, "Can you not carry him in your chaise? He made the experiment, and the sheltie was lifted into it, covered up with the apron, and some bits of bread given to keep him quiet; he lay quite peacefully till he reached his destination; thus exhibiting the novel spectacle of a horse riding in a gig.

The horse is naturally a playful animal, as may be seen when several of them are running in a meadow together. I remember one, as frolicsome as a kitten, which was kept along with an ass, in a park. These animals frequently attracted the attention of many spectators: for they would chase each other about in the most playful manner, biting one another in the manner that dogs play, and then scamper off together, kicking and plunging, with their ears thrown back in a mimic hostility. Thus they would continue to amuse themselves for hours.

I have read in the Sporting Magazine that a gentleman in Buckinghamshire was possessed of a three-year old colt, a dog, and three sheep, who were his constant attendants in all his walks. When the parlor window, which looked into the field, happened to be open, the colt had often been known to leap through it, go up to and caress his master, and leap back to his pasture.

The following is a surprising instance of the affection and sagacity of the horse:—"A gentleman, one dark night, riding home through a wood, had the misfortune to strike his head against the branch of a tree, and fell from his horse stunned by the blow. The animal, immediately returning to the house which they had left, about a mile distant, found the door closed, and the family retired to bed. He pawed at the door, till one of them, hearing the noise, arose and opened it, and to his surprise saw the horse of his friend. No sooner was the door opened, than the horse turned round, and the man suspecting there was something wrong, followed the animal, who led him directly to the spot where his master lay on the ground in a faint."

Although the horse seldom exerts its strength and power to prejudice of his

master, we have an instance of recollection of injury and an attempt to revenge it, inserted in a work of D. Rolle Esq., of Torrington in Devonshire.

A baronet, one of whose hunters had never tired in the longest chase, once encouraged the cruel thought of attempting completely to fatigue him. After a long run he dined, and again mounting, rode him furiously among the hills. When brought to the stable his strength seemed exhausted, and he was scarcely able to walk. The groom possessed of more feeling than his brutal master, could not refrain from tears at the sight of so noble an animal thus sunk down. The baronet, some time after entered the stable, when the horse made a furious spring upon him, and, had not the groom interfered, would soon have put out of his power ever again to misuse his animals.

What will you say to a horse going up into the hay-loft to procure more provender? Such an extraordinary circumstance did happen: the horse had finished his ration of hay for the night, and, it is very clear, from the circumstance, had designed serving out a second course for the accommodation of himself and his associates of the stable. He shipped the halter off his head, and mounted up, by a very narrow pair of stairs, into the hay-loft, above the other horses. Having performed this unheard-of feat, and nearly accomplished his design, the floor gave way under his weight and he fell partly through the loft, his body hanging over one of the beams, his legs through the boards, and his head down into the rack. In the violent struggles which he made to relieve himself from this execrable situation, he cut and bruised himself so terribly, that when released by the men, his condition was most distressing.

Disturbing a Spirit Rapper.

There can be no doubt of the truth of Shakespeare's notion that the truest love is always the most unlucky. To prove it, the Philadelphia Sunday Mercury, of last week, gives the following case in point: "Miss Phoebe Barrett does kitchen duty at a very respectable mansion on Eleventh street. The lady of the house, having had melancholy experience in the matrimonial way, resolves that all her female assistants shall be maids in very sense of the word. With this object in view, she forbids the reception of any masculine visitors on her premises. But as a mutual love affair has grown up between Miss Barrett and a young wheelwright, by the name of Reuben McCandlish, the orders were not strictly obeyed. The interview between them took place in the wash-house. In the midst of an interesting dialogue, last night, they were interrupted by approaching footsteps. No other place of concealment being at hand, the young man was obliged to take sanctuary in a large copper wash kettle. Scarcely had he settled himself before the lady entered. Her husband wished to take a foot-bath, and she directed the horror-stricken Phoebe to fill the kettle and kindle a fire under it. "Now," thought the concealed lover, "I shall get myself into hot water for certain." The perplexed Phoebe stood for a moment irresolute. What could she do? Drawing a pail of water from the hydrant, she poured it slowly into the copper vessel. A slight tapping was heard from within. "What noise is that?" asked the mistress. "I think," replied Phoebe, "it must be one of the Spirit Rappers; I hear it often." "Indeed!" cried the lady, "I have no Spirit Rappers in my kettles; dash in the water and drown them out." Another pail full of the cold fluid was poured in, and a profound sigh, not the passionate sigh of an ardent lover, but a sigh of misery and despair, came from the interior. "That's the spirit," exclaimed Phoebe. "It seems to be an unhappy one," exclaimed the lady; "I've heard that sort often cry for cold water. Let him have a little more of it." Another bucket full was accordingly pitched in. "Fire and fury!" yelled the lover, starting up, "you put too much water on your spirits; I can't stand it." Then making a dart for the door, he executed a masterly retreat across the yard and out of the back gate; but one of the police agents, observing his disordered appearance and his hasty exit, very justifiably arrested him on suspicion of burglary. He shivered out the night at the watch-house, and sent for Phoebe this morning to prove that he was an innocent lover, and not a villainous house-breaker. This fact established, he regained his liberty."

Why are country girls' cheeks like well printed cotton? Because they are "warranted to wash and keep their color."

What city is most opposed to the introduction of gas? Sperma-ceti.

What reward is best for a singer to reach high notes with? A soar throat.

When is iron like a bank note? When it's forged.

Texas Reptiles.

This Texas of ours is an astonishingly prolific country. Every field stands luxuriant, crowded, so that it can scarce wave under the breeze, with corn or sugar, or wheat or cotton. Every cabin is full and overflowing, through all its doors and windows, with white-haired children. Every prairie abounds in deer, prairie-hens, and cattle. Every river and creek is alive with fish. The whole land is electric with lizards perpetually darting among the grass like flashes of green lightning. We have too much prairie and too little forest for a great variety of birds. But in horned-frogs, scorpions, tarantulas and centipedes, we beat the universe. Every body has seen them in jars in windows of apothecaries. You are entreated to purchase them by loafing boys on the levee, at New Orleans. They have been neatly soldered up in soda boxes, and mailed by young gentlemen in Texas to fair ones in the old States. The fair ones receive the neat package from the post office, are delighted at the prospect of a daguerreotype—perhaps jewelry—open the package eagerly, and faint, as the frog within hops out, in excellent health, upon them. A horned frog is, simply, a very harmless frog, with very portentous horns. It has horns because everything in its region—trees, shrubs, grass even, has thorns—and nature makes it in keeping with all around it. A menagerie of them would not be expensive. They are content to live upon air—and can, if desired, live, I am told, for several months, without even eat.

The scorpions are precisely like those of Arabia—in the shape of a lobster, exactly, only not more than some three inches long. You are very apt to put one upon your face in the towel which you apply thereto after washing. If you do, you will find the sting about equal to that of a wasp—nothing worse. They are far less poisonous than the scorpion of the East—in fact, none except new comers dread them at all.

But the tarantula! You remember the astonishing elasticity with which you sprang in the air that time you were just on the point of putting your raised foot down upon a snake coiled in your path. You were frightened—through every fibre of your body. Very probably the snake was as harmless as it was beautiful. Spring as high, be as terribly frightened as possible, when you just avoid stepping upon a tarantula, however. Filthy, loathsome, abominable and poisonous—crush it to atoms before you leave it! If you have never seen it—know henceforth that it is an enormous spider; concentrating in itself all the venom and spite and ugliness of all other spiders living. Its body is some two inches long, black and bloated. It enjoys the possession of eight long, strong legs, a red mouth, and an abundance of stiff brown hair all over itself. When standing, it covers an area of a saucer. Attack it with a stick, and it rears on its hind legs, gnashes at the stick, and fights like a fiend. It even jumps forward a foot or two in its rage, and if it bite into the vein, the bite is death. I have been told of the battle fought by one on board a steamboat. Discovered at the lower end of the saloon, it came hopping up the saloon, driving the whole body of passengers before it, and almost drove the whole company, crew and all, overboard.

The first I saw was at the house of a friend. I spied it crawling slowly over the wall, meditating murder upon the children playing in the room. Excessively prudent in regard to my fingers, I sat still, however, had it safely imprisoned in a glass jar, unhurt. There was a flaw in the glass, as well as a hole through the cork, by which it could breathe; but in ten minutes it was dead from rage! Soon after, I killed three upon my place, crawling about ground trodden every day by the bare feet of my little boy. A month after, I killed a whole nest of them. They had formed their family circle under a door-step, upon which the aforesaid little fellow played daily. Had he seen one of them, he would, of course, have picked it up as a remarkably promising toy; and I would have been childless.

I was sitting, one day, upon a log in the woods, when I saw one slowly crawl out to enjoy the evening air and the sunset scenery. He was the largest, most bloated one I ever saw. As I was about to kill him, I was struck with the conduct of a chance wasp. It, too, had seen the tarantula, and was flying slowly around it. The tarantula recognized it's foe; and, throwing itself upon its hind legs, breathed defiance. For some time, the wasp flew around it, and then, like a flash, flew right against it, and stung him under its bloated belly. The tarantula gnashed its red and venomous jaws, and threw its long hairy legs about in impotent rage, while the wasp flew round and round it, watching for another opportunity. Again and again did it dash its sting into the reptile, and escape. After the sixth stab, the tarantula actually fell over on its back, dead; and the wasp,

after making itself sure of the fact, and inflicting a last sting to make matters sure, flew off, happy in having done a duty assigned it in creation. In an hour more a colony of ants had carried it down piece-meal, and deposited it in their catacombs.

But deadliest and most abhorrent of all our reptiles in Texas, is the centipede.—This is a kind of worm, from three to six inches long, exactly like an enormous caterpillar. It is green, or brown, or yellow—some being found of each of these colours. As its name denotes, it has along each side a row of feet, horny claws rather. Imagine that you walk some night across your chamber floor with naked feet; you put your foot down upon a soft something and instantly it coils around your foot in a ring, sticking every claw up to the body in your foot. The poison flows through each claw, and in two minutes you will have fainted with agony; in a few more, and you will be dead. The deadly thing cannot be torn away. It has to be cut off, and claw by claw plucked out. Even if it crawls over the naked body of a sleeping person, without sticking in its claws, the place will pain the person for years after—at least, so I have been told.

I have seen these things—in which nature corks up her deadly poisons—often; yet I have heard of few cases in which they have bitten or killed any one. The kind Being who makes the butterflies to be abundant, in the same loving kindness makes all deadly creatures to be scarce.

Genius.

We dislike the eternal cry about genius. The supposed possession of it has made more drones in the world than perseverance should be called upon to support. Because Mozart composed music at the age of seven—because West sketched at five, and the precocious Misses Davidson wrote poetry at ten—hundreds of people think a person can never achieve anything unless he exhibits some such striking peculiarity. There is undoubtedly an original aptitude in most individuals for a particular vocation; but it is generally far more slight than is usually supposed. Nature occasionally produces minds which are peculiarly her own. She places them so far above the common herd, that they become for ages the pillar of fire which guides succeeding generation: they enlighten the world by the sparkling scintillations which come fresh from the contract of original minds with effect principals and practices. Such minds have only rarely appeared in the world, the majority of the human race being endowed with an average intellect, which can only be developed by universal application.

Young men start in life with absurd hopes and foolish expectations. Flattered, it may be, by a coterie of admirers, they are led to believe they have so much talent that industry is unnecessary. Affecting idleness they do not possess, they hope to palm off their vagaries as original and talented. If they imagine they possess poetical powers, the first intimation the public have of it is the extravagant pretensions of a Byronic shirt-collar.—Genius is supposed to be concentrated in bad gin; and, on the principle of the siphon, they hope by pouring that down one tube, to raise poetical inspiration in another. After all, perseverance is the philosopher's stone which achieves success in life. By this, difficulties are surmounted, and, "Though they rise, Like Alps on Alps, until they touch the skies," yet the energetic person will surmount them. By overcoming one difficulty, strength is obtained to overcome another, and thus success contributes to success.—Let all who will be anything, go to work vigorously. Spend no time in dreamy speculations about genius, which, like a rush-light, only allures you from the true path to fame into the slough of indolence. Cultivate what nature has given; and, if success is not obtained, it will at least be deserved.

Women.

The usual conversation of ordinary women very much cherishes the natural weakness of being taken with outside appearance. Talk of a new married couple and you immediately hear whether they keep their coach and six, or eat in plate. Mention the name of an absent lady, and it is ten to one but you learn something of her gown and petticoat. A ball is a great help to discourse, and a birthday furnishes conversation for a twelvemonth after. A farbelow of precious stones, a ball buttoned with a diamond, a brocade waistcoat or petticoat, are standing topics.—ADAMSON.

It is with books as with women, where a certain plainness of manner and of dress is more engaging, than that glare of paint, and airs, and apparel, which may dazzle the eye, but reaches not the affections.—HICSE.

Impertinents are the general despisers of us women, though we have their superiors, the men of sense, for our servants.—TATLER.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF RHODE ISLAND.

No. 3.
(Copy-Right secured, according to Law.)
WILLIAM VERNON.

(Continued.)

Extract from a letter to Hon. Wm. Vernon, then in Boston, from Solomon Southwick, publisher of the Mercury prior to the war, under date of Providence, July 8th, 1779.

"The Betsy at Newport are so greatly distressed, that unless they have a speedy supply of provisions, they must surrender, having neither shipping nor provisions enough to carry them off. The town goes to destruction fast. Capt. Arnold's new house on Beaver Tail was pulled down a few days past partly to relay barracks floors, which the soldiers laid bare, and partly to burn; another flag with inhabitants, is lately arrived from Newport. The distress of the numerous and poor men, women and children, from the town, is truly deplorable. I can only assure them there are many who share this town, who can scarcely get a single mouthful of bread for several days together. I wish the town of Boston to remember their own former sufferings and considerate the case of those who have suffered and are now suffering, none in the same cause, than ever she did in her greatest calamity. I am persuaded you will not be wanting in stirring up her pure mind by way of remembrance."

I another letter under date of the 26th, of same month, he says:

"Since I wrote you last the enemy have rec'd a supply of provisions and wood, so that my expectation of their surrendering prisoners of war are disappointed."

(Gen. Lafayette, in the early part of 1779, returned to France in the frigate Alliance, 32, commanded by Capt. Landais, a French officer, who unfortunately was not a favorite with the seamen; hence arose the mutiny that raged on board, and destroyed all the officers except the French captain, who within two days of the coast of England.)

Before the Alliance weighed anchor in Boston harbor, Lafayette addressed the following note to Mr. Vernon:

On board ship Alliance, 11th January, 1779.

Dear Sir:—I just receive your most obliging favor, and whatever superior might be to my merit the praises you honor me with, I however confess I feel happy that such a favorable idea, procured me the advantage of your acquaintance. I am, Sir, my dear Sir, so to accept my thanks for your civilities and the assurances of an attachment which will forever last in my breast. We are just going to sail and I must shortly end a letter which I would like to write much longer terms. Your good wishes are so happy omens for our voyage, and they will I hope make it as safe as your care and attentions have rendered it comfortable. Adieu, with the highest regard I am very affectionately, dear Sir,

Yours truly,
Gen. Lafayette

Hon. Wm. Vernon, Boston.

Mr. Vernon, on learning of the arrival of the Alliance in France, wrote to Lafayette as follows:—Boston, 1st August, 1779.

My Dear Sir:—Permit me to congratulate you on your safe arrival in the Alliance. Frigate in France, and on your happy escape from the war, and the important acquisition of Dominique, St. Martin and St. Vincent, together with the pleasing prospect of the Granada soon being subjugated to his majesty's power. I am, Sir, my dear Sir, so to accept my thanks for your civilities and the assurances of an attachment which will forever last in my breast. We are just going to sail and I must shortly end a letter which I would like to write much longer terms. Your good wishes are so happy omens for our voyage, and they will I hope make it as safe as your care and attentions have rendered it comfortable. Adieu, with the highest regard I am very affectionately, dear Sir,

The operations of Gen. Clinton (to whom the command of the British army in North America had devolved) opened the campaign by detached parties from New York and Phila. He had sold and destroyed our defenses twice upon the sea coast; of which you know, Sir, there are many, particularly in the state of Connecticut. He had succeeded so far in his diabolical purposes as to burn Fairfield, New-Haven, and parts of the West-Haven, with some villages of lesser note. This is a novel method of carrying on war, by generals of whom Britain so mightily boasted; but to their eternal shame and reproach would make even savages blush.

Clinton, with his main body of between six and eight thousand, moved up the North River, with a design to attack our strong works in the Highlands, where Gen. Muellegue commands, with Gen. Washington's encampment within twelve miles of the works. The British took possession of Fort Mifflin, landed their main body on the east side, established strong works on each side of the river, and retired with their main body to New York, leaving a strong garrison to defend them. Gen. Washington detached a small party of his troops on the 15th inst., with about 1100 men to attack the fort at Stony Point on the west side of the river. At two in the morning they carried the work without blood; the particulars of which you will find in the papers of the day. This was the most gallant action since the commencement of the war. Americans would improve in the refined arts of War under Turner, Eugene, or Marlboro. I hope, Sir, you will Mr. Wm. Vernon, has done himself the honor of waiting on you agreeable to the intimation enjoin'd him.

Your most obed. hble. servt.
Marquis de La Fayette.

Wm. Vernon.

The next letter is from Hon. Wm. Vernon, dated at Philadelphia, March 24, 79 to Mr. Vernon.

Dear Sir:—Although I have not written to you yet, I have not been unmindful of you. After our acquaintance and similarity of political sentiments have formed a connection which on my side will not be easily broken.

The happy situation of your son Billy in France gives me great pleasure. Wish you would let him please to present my best regards to him and tell him not to forget that he is an American, nor the essential characteristic of a republican.

Capt. Rathbun's success has given me great satisfaction, not only on account of the public benefit derived from it, but because I procured him an appointment. I am sorry to hear that he is indisposed. It would have been very agreeable to me that he should have continued in the Providence until such a vessel as you recommended should have been provided for him; but that she should be commanded by a man of whose I have not the highest opinion. But I have no voice in these matters not being a member of the marine committee. I believe you have the appointment of the commander of vessels of her fortitude. The appointment of officers in a matter of great importance ought to be carefully attended. Besides the disadvantages which may accrue to the public from appointments, the faults of those we command will be exposed to our own eyes. Our marine affairs have not been so well they were well conducted so long as the supreme direction of them is in the hands of Judges, Lawyers, Planters, &c. Congress are fully sensible of this but they have many affairs to settle upon the topic that I am afraid it will be late before the marine department will be properly organized. I should your letter to several of the marine committee. Who approve of Capt. Rathbun's having such a vessel sent for him as you describe and I expect they will soon report to Congress accordingly.

[On the evacuation of the Island by the British on the 22d October, of the year 1779] a ball was given in token of the general evacuation. A gentleman still living, informed as not long since, that in sending out the invitations the remaining Lady-als were slighted; this coming to the ears of Mrs. C— (a lady whose memory is cherished by many who still survive here) she at once entered a protest against any such distinction, declaring that as the struggle was now over and the present object was to remove all bitter feelings, she and her daughters would not be present if invitations were not sent to all the respectable inhabitants. Her wishes were complied with and the ball was attended by all who had formerly met together in the same manner.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

NEWPORT, Friday, May 6.
SENATE.—An act recommending the people of this State to hold a Convention for the purpose of forming a Constitution for this State was read for the first time, read, suspended, and after discussion was passed and transmitted to the House.

HOUSE.—An act recommending a Convention of the people of the State to frame a Constitution for the State. A second time read, and after few remarks, the House concurred with the Senate in the passage of the bill.

IN GRAND COMMITTEE.—The counting committee appointed to count the votes of Representatives in Congress, and on the liquor question, made report through their Chairman.

Representative in Eastern District.

Whole number of votes, 10,873

Necessary to a choice, 5,437

George G. King has, 4,942

Thomas Davis, 5,524

John H. Willard, 401

Scattering, 6

Majority for Davis, 175

Representative in Western District.

Whole number of votes, 4,905

Necessary to a choice, 2,453

Benjamin B. Thurston has, 4,438

Elisha Aldrich, 450

Scattering, 17

Majority for Thurston, 3,971

LIQUOR QUESTION.

Shall the act entitled an act for the more

effective suppression of drinking houses

and tipping shops be repealed?

Whole number of votes, 17,443

Those voting No, 9,074

Those voting Yes, 8,369

Majority for sustaining the law, 705

No votes on the liquor question have

been received from Middletown, and from

the second district of Smithfield, the votes

returned as votes on the above question,

for dividing the town of Smithfield and

were not counted.

Resolutions were passed declaring the

election of Thomas Davis and Benjamin

B. Thurston, Representatives in the 33d

Congress.

John W. Murphy was added to the list

of Justices in Newport.

The Grand Committee rose and the two

Houses separated.

HOUSE.—Petitions Granted and Acts

passed.—John B. Duckray, to sell real

estate; Amos P. Rodman et al, for charter

of Peaceland Bank; B. W. Evans, for

charter of Continental Bank; H. A.

Hidden et al, for charter of What Cheer

Bank; Charles Lippitt et al, for charter,

An act in relation to election of Wardens

and Clerks in Providence county.

Resolutions Passed.—Resolutions to

pay the services of the Governor and Lt.

Governor for the past year; appointing

a committee to inquire into the receipts of

expenditures of the Pawtucket Turnpike

Corporation; appointing a committee to

provide room for meeting and records of

the Court of Magistrates of Providence;

appointing a committee to transfer the

books and papers of said Court to the new

Court, were severally concurred in.

Concurrences of the House.—In Senate

amendments to charter of Newport Gas

Light Co., on petitions of Amos P. Rod-

man et al for charter of Peaceland Bank;

of Barchers and Drivers Bank for charter;

of Grocers and Producers Bank for char-

ter.

The Assembly adjourned until the second

Wednesday of June next, to meet at New-

port.

We learn that the counting committee

of the Assembly, have made an error of

200 votes in the returns for member of

Congress from the Eastern District. The

error existed in the counting of the votes

of North Providence, where Mr. Davis re-

sides. Mr. Davis's majority in the Dis-

trict, therefore, is 375, and not 175.

Prov. Post.

BY THE MAIL.

SMUGGLING.—Capt. Benjamin Usher, of
brig Busy, George Wilson, his chief mate,
William R. Talbot, brother-in-law to the
Captain, and a Mr. Cunliff, were yesterday
brought before C. Hart, U. S. Commis-

sioner, on a charge of having smuggled sev-
eral hundred thousand cigars while enter-
ing the port of Providence, on Monday last.
The brig was from Cuba, and had run
around below Narragansett Point. Mr. Tal-
bot went down to meet her in a sail boat, and
left her near Narragansett Point. The cigars
are alleged to have been taken off in his
sail boat. Cunliff was discharged, having
been arrested by mistake, and the case of
the other three continued till to-morrow,
at 3 o'clock p. m. George H. Browne, Esq.,
District Attorney, appeared for the pro-
secution, and E. H. Hazard, Esq., for the
defendants.—*Providence Journal*, 13th.

A YOUNG PATRIOT.—A despatch from
Washington informs us that a boy, only
twelve years old, who had walked all the
way from Ohio to Washington, called on
the President yesterday. He said he was
an orphan, supported and educated by a
poor aunt, and had come to ask a place in
the Navy. The President was deeply af-
fected by his story, and the evidence of his
perseverance, and gave him several pieces
of gold and invited him to call again. The
boy left, but was followed by a gentleman
who witnessed the interview, and who saw
him exchange the gold he had received for
bank notes, which he mailed in a letter to
his poor relative. His enterprise is likely
to be rewarded by the place he seeks.
N. Y. Mirror.

ANOTHER RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—New
York, May 10.—The emigrant train from
New York and the day express train from
Dunkirk, came in collision at 8 o'clock
last evening, on the Ramapo branch of the
Erie Railroad. Four brakemen were se-
verely injured, one having both legs broken.
One passenger had his legs broken. No
others were injured, both locomotives and
baggage cars were smashed. The wounded
men were brought to the City Hospital.
The time table went into operation
yesterday morning. It is said that the
emigrant train left Jersey City one hour
and a half before its time.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *New York*
Tribune comments in the strongest terms
the conduct of the managers of the Vander-
bilt line, in putting such a boat as the In-
dependence on the Pacific route. He says
she was notoriously unseaworthy, and unfit
to carry passengers on that coast; and it
was the necessity of keeping her enough
to the shore to be able to beach her for
her ruin upon the reef which resulted in her
destruction. Had she been a craft fit to
put to sea in, Capt. Sampson would have
followed the ordinary track with safety.

A GIRL seventeen years old, was bitten
by a rattlesnake on the left instep. Two
hours and a half afterwards Dr. T. A.
Atchison, who describes the case in the
Southern Medical Journal, visited her and
found her sightless, with her face swollen
and her mind wandering. He placed her in a
hot salt bath, and administered whiskey and
carbonate of ammonia until she had taken
three points of the first and eighty grains of
the latter, no intoxication followed, and
she was cured.

THE SOUTHERN LUMBER TRADE.—The
high price of lumber has given a great im-
pulse to this trade, and the inexhaustible
resources of the Southern coasts are yield-
ing rich profits to all who are engaged in
the lumber business. The editor of the
New Orleans Delta, a few days since, counted
sixty-seven vessels of various tonnage, in
the new Basin, which may give some
idea of the trade which is carried on be-
tween that city and the Lake and Florida
ports.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—The Ohio Dis-
trict Court, now sitting in Cincinnati, has
decided that where promissory notes pro-
vide for a greater interest than ten per
cent, but six per cent. can be recovered.
The decision has been made upon the
statute of that State fixing the rate of in-
terest, passed March 14, 1850, which statu-
te provides that the parties to a bond, bill,
note, &c., may stipulate for interest at any
rate not exceeding ten per cent.

THE EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—New
York, April 9.—The vessels of the explor-
ing and surveying expedition to the North
Pacific ocean, under the command of Com-
modore Cadwallader Ringgold are to sail
from this port to-day for Norfolk, Va.
They comprise the sloop of war Vincennes,
steamer John Hancock, brig Porpoise,
schr. Fenimore Cooper, and clipper John
P. Kennedy.

A THRIVING FARMER.—We are informed
that recently, in Middletown, R. I., a
Mr. Barker, a farmer, in one week, had
the following additions made to his domestic
menagerie, and to the live stock on his
place:—His wife presented him with two
children; one of his cows had two calves;
and one of his sheep three lambs.

Fall River News.

EXCELLENT VOYAGE.—The ship Ocean,
Capt. Swift, belonging to Edward Pearce,
arrived yesterday from a cruise in the
North Pacific, last from the Sandwich
Islands. She has been gone 34 months,
and brings 4200 lbs. Whale oil and 54000
lbs. of bone. She has sent home 300 lbs.
Sperm oil.—*Providence Journal*, 11.

THE WASHINGTON REPUBLIC says a slight
earthquake was experienced in that city
twenty minutes past nine o'clock, Monday
morning, continuing for a few moments
only. But few persons were conscious of it.

THE MASSILLON NEWS, in speaking of a
fire which lately occurred there, says: Our
fire department was promptly on hand. It
consists of five tin snails and as many wooden
buckets as can be caught up at the various
stores and shops around town.

A TACUO weighing eighteen pounds
was caught a few days ago in Tiverton,
which is the largest of the New Bedford Stan-
dard ever heard of.

THE AIR LINE TO NEW YORK.—Ground
was broken in Woonsocket, R. I., on Wed-
nesday, on the New York and Boston
Railroad.

CALIFORNIA.—The El Dorado, arrived at
New York on Saturday, is the first of a
weekly line, contemplated sometime since.

THE JAIL of Cincinnati is said to be
overflowing with vagrants, and yet there is
demand for room for more.

The following are the particulars of the
catastrophe on the New York and New
Haven Rail Road on the 16th inst.—
The train left the Canal Street Station,
in New York, at 8 o'clock in the morning,
being due in Boston at half past 4 o'clock
in the afternoon. It reached the place of
the disaster, 45 miles from New York, ac-
cording to the statement at half past 10.—
The train consisted of two baggage and
five passenger cars. The steamboat Pacific
was passing between Norwalk and New York
at the time, and it was discovered
that the engine had run into the river.
The engine fell into the river.
The tender followed the engine and fell
upon it. The first baggage car fell partly
across the tender, and the second in which
was a smoking room, fell close to it.—
Two of the passenger cars were precipitated
upon this mass, and all were submerged,
the engine and baggage wagons being
deeply imbedded in the mud. It was high
tide in the river, and the water was about
twelve feet deep. The bottom of the third
car broke in two, and the fragments hung
suspended on the edge of the stationary
part of the bridge. Some of the passen-
gers were thrown into the stream, a dis-
tance of about fifteen feet.

The water at Norwalk is ordinarily about
nine feet deep, and the soft mud at low
tide is from ten to fifteen feet deep.—
Into this one of the cars plunged so far as
to be entirely out of sight.

The evidence before the coroner's jury
is strongly to the point that the signal was
down full ten minutes before the train
came in sight—that the train was going at
full speed—indeed so great that in running
off the locomotive struck the abutment of
the draw on the opposite side—that no
whistle was given to break up.

It was the duty of the engineer to regu-
late his speed as he approaches the bridge
that he can "brake up" without difficulty,
as soon as he discovers the warning signal.
In this instance the engineer appears neu-
ter to have so abated his speed, nor to have
looked out for the signal.

Of course the cause of this dreadful
calamity will be thoroughly investigated.
It seems to be the general opinion that the
blame must rest entirely upon the conduct-
or and engineer of the train. The bridge
is 130 feet long, and wide enough for trains
to pass each other. The draw portion is
sixty feet in length. On the east side is a
long pole some forty feet high, upon which
is placed a large red ball, with pulleys to
hoist and lower. This is the signal, when
taken down, for all trains to stop. The
evidence is conclusive that upon this oc-
casion the ball was down. The master of
the bridge is compelled by law to open the
draw whenever required to do so.

As nearly as can be ascertained there
were 216 passengers upon the train. The
locomotive, of which at low water on Fri-
day no traces could be discovered, was
found on Saturday morning almost buried
in the opposite bank of the creek.

The destruction of life among the physi-
cians upon the train is not so great as was
at first anticipated. Only six are known
to be killed.

Many of them remained in New York
on Friday to visit the public institutions.
But few of the bodies taken out dead
were bruised or disfigured. They pre-
sented a ghastly appearance, and, in some
instances, their clothing was literally torn to
pieces. Infancy, youth and old age were
all represented among the dead.

The scene at Norwalk upon the arrival
of the friends of the dead and injured is
said to have been a terrible one. Num-
bers could be observed bending over the
dead, weeping in frantic grief; others
were hunting from house to house in
search of a wounded mother, father, brother,
sister, husband, or wife; and up to the
arrival of the latest train at Norwalk, on
Friday night, it was estimated that over
2,000 persons had arrived there for this
one sad purpose.

Many affecting incidents connected with
the disaster are related. Mr. Fluen of
Lancaster, Pa., was married on the night
previous, and his bride was among the
sufferers. A man saved himself by break-
ing a window, sprang on the car, and call-
ed out for an axe to chop open the car to
save his wife.

Mr. Lanchier, killed, had \$12,000 on
his person.

A revised list in the New York papers
of the persons killed by the railroad acci-
dent at Norwalk reduces the number to
forty-four; of whom, seven were residents
in Boston; sixteen, one-third of the
whole number, were residents in Massachu-
setts; and of the whole number twenty-six
resided in New England. The loss in-
cludes two clergymen, eight physicians,
thirteen women and two children.

The coroner's jury at Norwalk brought
in their verdict at 10 o'clock on Tuesday
night. After detailing all the facts in the
case, they came to the conclusion that the
immediate cause of the disaster was the
criminal recklessness of the engineer in
charge of the train, though they do not
think the entire responsibility rests upon him.

The engineer's name is Tucker, he is
said to have been formerly in the employ
of the Erie road, from whose employ he
has run an engine upon this road for about
three months.

This is the third accident of the kind
that has recently occurred—we mean acci-
dents at open railway draw-bridges. A
short time since an engine on the same
road plunged into the water through a
draw near Bridgeport. And at this time
the wreck of cars may be seen at Borden-
town, New Jersey—the remains of just such
an affair as this; though not destructive of
human life.

ACCIDENT ON THE NEW BEDFORD
TAUNTON RAILROAD.—On Saturday after-
noon, when the train which leaves this
city at a quarter before four for Boston was
about half a mile this side of Weir Village,
the axle of the tender broke. The bag-
gage car was thrown a great distance into
an adjoining field. Two passenger cars
were destroyed, but we are glad to learn
that the passengers with one or two ex-
ceptions received but slight injury. Mr.
Wetherell, the conductor was a good deal
bruised, and a young man named Davis, of
Fall River, was so badly injured that his
recovery is doubtful. His lower limbs
were thought to be entirely paralyzed.—
He was taken to Taunton for medical as-
sistance. The axle was a new one, and
used for the first time on Saturday. The
loss of the company by the accident is
estimated at \$5,000. The locomotive was
uninjured. This was an accident which
no possible prudence could prevent, and
one of those rare cases in which no blame
attaches to any body. The evening train
from Boston, did not arrive here until 8
o'clock, being detained by the obstruction
on the road.—*N. B. Mercury*.

A YOUNG MAN, a clerk at the New York
Post-Office, was arrested Tuesday morning
on a charge of stealing a gold ring from a
letter directed to Michael Goelzer, and
also a quarter eagle from a letter directed to
H. Bernhart Acken. The arrest was on
the affidavit of James Holbrook, who states
that he is a Special Agent of the Post-Office,
and from the loss of many letters contain-
ing money, he was instructed to detect the
offender; and that on the 12th May in the
Post Office of New York he detected the
stealing as above stated. It is said that
many letters have recently been lost
—as many as 20 sometimes from a single
mail. One little stratagem we understand
was exercised, in mailing the ring &c.
N. Y. Tribune.

THE GOLD MINES OF TEXAS NOT A HOAX.
We have Galveston advices of the 3d of
April. The accounts from the newly dis-
covered gold mines in Hamilton Valley, on
the Colorado, are very exciting. The tide
of emigration was setting strongly towards
the mines; 400 persons are now there
averaging from \$5 to \$10 a day each—
some having already realized from \$1500
to \$2000 each. The farmers around were
leaving their crops and starting for the
mines. Merchants were also sending for-
ward large amounts of goods. The soil
for 100 miles around had been examined,
and was found to contain gold deposits in
every direction, equally as rich as those in
California. People in all parts of the State
are wild with excitement.

RHODE ISLAND has at present no less
than seventy-one banking institutions, with
an aggregate capital of fourteen millions of
dollars. Of these, twenty-six are located in
Providence, with a capital of \$10,419,-
000 or an average of about \$400,000 each.
Not satisfied with these, seven new banks
have been established, viz.—The Conti-
nental Bank, 2. The What Cheer Bank,
3. The People's Bank, 4. The Atlantic
Bank, 5. The Peaseville Bank, 6. The
Butchers' and Drivers' Bank, 7. The
Grocers' and Producers' Bank.

A MODERN NIMROD.—Wat Eckman,
the Nimrod of Kentucky, has followed
hunting for a livelihood since the year
1831. Since that period he says he has
killed 38 bears, 984 wolves, 3847 coon,
990 foxes, 961 wild geese, 2040 pheasants,
44 ground hogs, 80 wildcats, 14 polecats,
209 minks, beside squirrels, quail and
other small game beyond his power to calcu-
late. The sum he has realized from his
game-skins, &c., falls but little short of
\$12,000.

SENTENCE.—In the case of Corporal
John White, on trial for attempting the life
of Brevet Major Pemberton, at Fort Hamil-
ton the Court Martial has pronounced him
guilty, and sentenced him to death. The
President commutes the sentence to soli-
tary confinement, on bread and water for
thirty days, and hard labor for the remain-
der of his enlisted term, with ball and chain,
and suspension of pay and allowance, save
necessary clothing and subsistence.

IN THE NAVY we have 68 Captains, 97
Commanders, 327 Lieutenants, 69 Sur-
geons, 40 Passed Assistant Surgeons, 63
Purser, 24 Chaplains, 12 Professors of
Mathematics, 14 Masters in the line of
promotion, 197 Passed Midshipmen, 198
Midshipmen, 75 Naval Cadets, Acting
Midshipmen, at the Naval Academy (under
probation,) 17 Masters, 3 Masters Mates,
44 Boatswains, 46 Gunners, 49 Carpenters
and 41 Sail-makers.

CHARLES ASTOR BRISTED writes to the
Home Journal, from Paris, that his bill at
Bolton's for gloves, last year, was \$400.—
His grandfather was not accustomed to
trade in skins in that way. The Spring-
field Post thinks it would be a curious cal-
culation—that of ascertaining how many
of Old Astor's Rocky Mountain beaver
skins it took to pay for Mr. Bristed's
Parisian rat skins.

ROBINSON CRUSOE'S ISLAND.—Captain
Skinner, of the ship Heron, which stopped
at the island of Juan Fernandez, March
27th for water, writes that he was much
surprised to find a settlement of about 300
persons there, headed by a Governor.—
They were very kind, and furnished the
ship with supplies. The same ship stopped
at this island two years ago, and found no
inhabitants.

THE *Tribune* estimates the annual ex-
penditures of our city's men of business in
advertising at more than two million of dol-
lars, of which about one-fourth is paid to
the journals of other cities and of inland
villages.

GOV. STEVENS, Washington Territory,
has completed his arrangements at the War
and Treasury Departments and will im-
mediately set out on the northern survey-
ing expedition for the Pacific Railroad.

IN SIX YEARS the consumption of tea in
Great Britain has increased only from 27,-
600,000 pounds to 65,000,000 pounds; and
in the United States it has increased from 18,-
000,000 pounds to 34,300,000 pounds.

THE EMPEROR OF FRANCE entered April
20th into his forty-sixth year, for he was
born on the 20th of April, 1808, in the
same palace of the Tuilleries where he now
resides.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—The site for the
Western Military Asylum has just been se-
lected by the Board. Harrodsburg Springs,
Kentucky, is unanimously selected, at the
price of \$100,000.

A sum of 80,000 francs has been voted
for the immediate erection, in the centre of
the Crystal Palace, in the Champs Elysees,
of an immense bronze statue of Napoleon.

DEAR OLD IRELAND.—A Galway paper
declares its belief that at the end of a year
there will not be two millions inhabitants
left in that island.

THE SULTAN is having a block of stone
prepared for the Washington monument, to
represent the Ottoman Empire.

EIGHT STEAMERS, valued \$1,250,000,
have been lost on the Pacific coast during
the last year.

NEW YORK, May 1. Advices from Trin-
dad state that the yellow fever is spreading
in that place.

FIVE HUNDRED daily papers are pub-
lished in the United States.

IN THE Northern States there is more
than one periodical taken to each family.

THE ordinary railroad accident deaths
in this country average one a day.

NEWPORT MERCURY.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 14, 1853.

Under its proper head will be found the
details of another frightful Railroad acci-
dent—the most painful one that we have
ever read of. The papers that bring us
this sad account chronicle many other ac-
cidents of a similar character, which have
occurred within a few days. The one at
Norwalk, which resulted in the death of
about fifty persons; that on the New
Bedford road, injuring fifteen; a train ran
off the Lowell track, doing slight damage;
a boy killed on the Hudson River Railroad;
a collision on the Erie road, dangerously
wounding four persons and injuring oth-
ers—these are all recorded in one issue
of the New York papers. And accidents
of this kind are of the most common oc-
currence. Scarce a day passes without an
account of some fearful collision or some-
thing of the same order, by which human
beings are torn limb from limb. The
destruction of life by these means is dread-
ful to think of and recently it has increas-
ed to the most alarming extent. That the
majority of these accidents are the result
of gross carelessness, no one can doubt
and the only question is, how long are they
to be sanctioned; for it is needless to say
that at present there is any law that will
reach a company with a large capital at
command. On roads that are most used
we often hear of recklessness that makes
one's blood run cold. Ten days ago,
when about starting in the cars from Wil-
mington, for Weldon, N. C., we were told
that the day before the train had run off
the track, a few miles beyond the city,
damaging the road and injuring one man.
Some of the detained passengers were then
with us, and they said that the superin-
tendent of the road confessed to the fact of
the switch having been out of order for a
week. The evidence brought forward at
the examination at Norwalk confirms the
first report of carelessness, or rather, reck-
lessness on the part of the engineer; and if
all accidents were made the subject of in-
vestigation, nine out of ten would be found
to be the result of a wilful disregard of
rules and regulations.

And what course will be pursued to re-
medy the evil? No law as now enacted will
avail, and it does not appear that any state
legislation will tend to make life more safe
when travelling over the roads. It then
becomes evident that there must be some
very stringent law enacted by Congress for
the especial purpose of regulating all roads;
the speed at which engines shall run, their
manner of approaching crossings, bridges,
high embankments, and the like. And
when such a bill passes it will become
the duty of the public to see it enforced to
the letter. But we fear we shall have yet
to learn more lessons before the desired
act is obtained. The present excitement
will blow over, the event, like that of the
Lexington, will scarcely be remembered and
in an unsuspecting moment another wilful
fellow will send scores of souls into eternity.

When the *Pictorial* (Glenison's) first ap-
peared, we spoke favorably of it, as a harbinger of better
things and when more than usually attractive,
called attention to it. But the exchange is discon-
tinued—for the reason, probably, that there is no
prospect of further benefit in this quarter.
Now look at what the *Mercury* has done, by its
own confession! It has noticed a paper which it did
not think worth reading, but gave away unques-
tioned, it has imposed upon its readers, injured its
own reputation and caused its own literary criticisms
to be received with doubt when it is sincere and
praises works of real worth.

Providence Journal 26th ult.
We do not stand convicted, Brother, nor
are we prepared to recall our words, and
can only say that you have misinterpreted
them. When we spoke favorably of the
"Pictorial," it was of its embellishments
and only "when they were more than usu-
ally attractive," and when the paper con-
tinually failed to meet our expectations we
threw it aside "unopened." On the first
appearance of that paper it had one or two
contributors of excellence. One of these
was the Paris correspondent of the Bos-
ton Atlas, in 1846. We were personally
acquainted with him and knew well that
whatever came from his pen was worthy
of a liberal notice. But our conscience is
clear of puffing the loads of light trash
thrown upon the world. We despise the
coarse too often followed in such cases as
the *Journal* alludes to, and far from wish-
ing to gain the favor of Magazine pub-
lishers, our criticisms have in some cases
called forth a rejoinder on their part (pri-
vate, of course) and Godley has only re-
cently written to us, wondering how it is
that we cannot appreciate his masterly
specimens of art. A few months since,
some of these publishers called forth from
us the following remarks: "So egotistical
are they that they hesitate not to send
out long, windy puff, one after another,
and they are as rapacious as a hawk. And
more than this, they have the impudence
to send these same puff to publishers of country
papers, requesting that they be in-
serted as advertisement and offering in re-
turn a pittance and the privilege of ex-
changing. Within two weeks we have
received two such communications, asking
the use of half of one of our columns (the
one for a twelve month and the other for
a few weeks) at prices lower than the low-
est paid for quack medicines. We have
too much self-respect to listen for a mo-
ment to such proposals and we hope our
brethren of the country press will act with
like independence."

No, friend, thanking you cordially for
the flattering remarks that accompany your
criticisms, we do not care for an exchange
where notices are expected in return, if
we are not permitted to take our own time
to insert them and to speak freely of the
merits or demerits of whatever is placed on
our table; and as we take pains in pre-
paring our "

